

Message Text

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SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EXCHANGES OF LITERARY SCHOLARS WITH GORKY INSTITUTE

STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV, LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEE

1. DURING CALL BY ACAO ON GORKY INSTITUTE TO PRESENT
COLLECTION OF BOOKS ON CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE
AND CRITICISM, TOPIC OF POSSIBLE EXCHANGES BETWEEN INSTITUTE
AND US UNIVERSITIES OF LITERARY SCHOLARS WAS INTRODUCED.
MEMBERS OF INSITUTE PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSION WERE
A.M USHAKOV, ASST. DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND ORGANIZATION
OF INSTITUTE, P. BALASHOV, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AT
INSTITUTE AND A. ZVEREV, TRANSLATOR, CRITIC AND SCHOLAR OF
AMERICAN LITERATURE.

2. SUBJECT WAS INTRODUCED BY ACAO WHO NOTED THAT WITH
PRESENTATION OF BOOKS HE WISHED TO INSTITUTE CLOSER FORMAL
CONTACTS BETWEEN EMBASSY CULTURAL SECTION AND
INSITUTE. IN PAST EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD GOOD
PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH ZVEREV AND OTHER SCHOLARS AT
INSTITUTE. ACAO INFORMED INSTITUTE OFFICIALS THAT THERE
WAS FORMAL EXCHANGE OF LECTURERS PROGRAM BETWEEN US
AND USSR AND ASKED IF INSTITUTE WAS INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING IN EXCHANGE. USHAKOV REPLIED THAT THEY
WERE INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE OF LITERARY SCHOLARS ALTHOUGH
MOST SCHOLARS AT INSTITUTE WERE NOT LECTURERS AND THERE WERE
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NO STUDENTS AT INSTITUTE. ACAO REPLIED THAT THIS

PROBLEM HAD BEEN MENTIONED BEFORE BY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, OF WHICH INSTITUTE A PART, BUT THAT PROGRAM WAS FLEXIBLE AND SOME ARRANGEMENT COULD POSSIBLY BE WORKED OUT, OR PERHAPS SPECIAL PROGRAM COULD BE DEvised. ACAO ASKED WHICH TOPICS INSTITUTE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING LECTURERS OR SCHOLARS. ZVEREV REPLIED THAT THEY NOW WORKING ON LARGE TWO VOLUME WORK ON AESTHETICS AND SOCIOLOGICAL TYPOLOGY OF 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE AND THAT SEMINAR BY SCHOLARS/CRITICS SUCH AS MALCOLM COWLEY, ALFRED KAZIN OR STANLEY HOFFMAN AT PRINCETON WOULD BE OF GREAT VALUE TO INSTITUTE'S AMERICAN GROUP. AT SAME TIME, USHAKOV SAID, INSTITUTE WOULD BE WILLING TO RECIPROCATATE BY SENDING ITS SCHOLARS TO US CAMPUSES TO CONDUCT SIMILAR SEMINARS. IT WAS ALSO MENTIONED THAT EXCHANGE COULD INCLUDE MUTUAL EXCHANGES OF MICROFILMED COPIES OF LITERARY ARCHIVES IN BOTH COUNTRIES. ACAO CONCLUDED DISCUSSION BY STATING THAT HE VIEWED DISCUSSION AS AN INFORMAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO PURSUE QUESTION IN SERIOUS CONCRETE TERMS AND THAT HE WOULD REPORT ON CONVERSATION TO DEPARTMENT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. EMBASSY FEELS THAT THIS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND AND ADD TO VALUE OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH SOVIET UNION IN AREA OF IMPORTANT MUTUAL INTEREST. ONE POSSIBLE WAY TO INAUGURATE EXCHANGE WOULD BE TO OFFER ONE OF ABOVE NAMED US SCHOLARS TO GORKY INSTITUTE FOR PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS EITHER UNDER LECTURER PROGRAM OR UNDER SPECIAL CATEGORY WITH DEPARTMENT PAYING INTERANTIONAL AIR FARE AND INSTITUTE PAYING LOCAL COSTS AND AT SAME TIME SOLICIT INTERESTED US UNIVERSITY REQUEST FOR SCHOLAR FROM GORKY INSTITUTE UNDER SIMILAR CONDITIONS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY REALIZES THAT AT FIRST IT MAY BE EASIER TO GET US SCHOLAR HERE THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND, EXCHANGE IS OF SUCH POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE THAT INITIAL IMBALANCE IS RISK WORTH TAKING.

4. GORKY INSTITUTE IS SOVIET UNION'S FOREMOST RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON FOREIGN LITERATURE, INCLUDING US, AND THE BOOKS, ARTICLES AND CRITICISM OF ITS SCHOLARS ON AMERICAN LITERATURE HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE ON REST OF SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNITY INTEREST IN AMERICAN LETTERS. INSTITUTE HAS ALREADY BEGUN PRELIMINARY WORK ON MAY VOLUMED HISTORY ON AMERICAN LITERATURE WHICH WILL BECOME ONE ONE STANDARD REFERENCE WORKS IN SOVIET UNION ON THIS SUBJECT. STOESSEL

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